United Nations E/RES/2017/25

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 12 (g)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 7 July 2017

[on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.27)]

2017/25. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2015/2 of 9 April 2015,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS,[1]

Underscoring the importance of the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS on 8 June 2016,[2] as well as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 2016–2021 Strategy: On the Fast-Track to End AIDS, adopted by the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint Programme on 30 October 2015,

Welcoming the fact that the 2016–2021 Strategy and the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS are complementary and aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3]

Recognizing that the joint programme model is largely aligned with General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly called for a United Nations development system that is more strategic, integrated, coherent and results-oriented, with a central focus on leaving no one behind,

Welcoming the new data and analysis contained in the recent Joint Programme reports of 2016 entitled "Global AIDS update", "90-90-90: on the right track towards the global target", "Prevention gap report" and "Get on the fast-track: the life-cycle approach to HIV", which not only provide compelling evidence on the progress made but also highlight the persistent gaps, and call for greater investment in the next four years in order to enable countries to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030,

Noting with appreciation the continued reporting on progress by Member States, providing the most comprehensive overview to date of the response to HIV

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[1] E/2017/62.

[2] General Assembly resolution 70/266, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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and AIDS at the country level and enabling continued refinement of strategic information to inform decision-making,

Welcoming the progress made in increasing access to HIV treatment and preventing new HIV infections,

Expressing deep concern that, despite the progress made, critical challenges remain, including insufficient progress in reducing HIV infections among young women and adolescent girls and among key populations that epidemiological evidence shows to be globally at higher risk of HIV infection;[4] important regional disparities in terms of progress made by countries in HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, which disproportionately affect infants and children; new HIV infections in many countries on the rise due in part to inefficient and/or insufficient policies; HIV prevention efforts inadequately resourced and their implementation insufficiently taken to scale; limited integration of the HIV and AIDS response into broader health systems; and the financing gap for the global HIV and AIDS response and reduced international financing,

Expressing particular concern that, despite significant scale-up of HIV testing, 40 per cent of people living with HIV are still unaware of their HIV status, and stressing that progress in this area is critical to the achievement of the Joint Programme 90-90-90 target[5] by 2020,

Recognizing the value of lessons learned from the multisectoral response to HIV and AIDS in addressing other complex health and development challenges, and recognizing also that progress in the HIV and AIDS response has led to progress on broader development outcomes,

Welcoming the decision of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint Programme to establish a representative and regionally balanced global review panel to provide recommendations for a sustainable and fit-for-purpose Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS by revising and updating the operating model, in particular with regard to joint work, financing and accountability, and governance, which are pillars of critical importance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;[1]

2. *Recognizes* that the AIDS epidemic is not yet over, and stresses the urgency of fast-tracking the AIDS response to meet the 2020 milestones and targets, as a prerequisite for ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030;

3. *Urges* the Joint Programme to continue to support the full, effective and timely implementation of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 2016–2021 Strategy: On the Fast-Track to End AIDS and the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030;[2]

4. *Stresses* the importance of the programmatic coherence of the Joint Programme to continue to leverage the comparative advantages of diverse United Nations bodies and partners in strengthening a multisectoral response to HIV and AIDS;

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[4] As referred to in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030 and as discussed in the "Prevention gap report", each country should define the specific populations that are key to its epidemic and response based on the epidemiological and social context.

[5] The Joint Programme 90–90–90 is a treatment target initiative to help end the AIDS epidemic and calls for ambitious but achievable targets by 2020: 90 per cent of all people living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 90 per cent of all people with diagnosed HIV infection receiving sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90 per cent of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy having viral suppression by 2020.

5. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders to scale up efforts on an urgent basis to achieve the goals of the 2016–2021 Strategy and the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS as an important prerequisite and enabler for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of strong partnerships, including between the Member States, international organizations and bilateral partners, to fast-track the HIV and AIDS response and urgently address the regional disparities, as highlighted in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, in the next four years, which offers an important window of opportunity to accelerate the response and lay the foundation to end the epidemic as a public health threat by 2030;

7. *Also reaffirms* that the Joint Programme's co-sponsor and governance model has provided the United Nations system with a useful example of strategic coherence, reflecting national contexts and priorities, through its coordination, results-based focus, inclusive governance, and country-level impact, as set out in General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

8. *Stresses* the need for the Joint Programme to continue to set the path for reform by revising and updating its operating model, in particular in the areas of joint work, financing and accountability, and governance, as considered by the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint Programme at its 40th meeting, held in Geneva from 27 to 29 June 2017, on the basis of a proposal by the Executive Director and the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of the Joint Programme, and by recognizing the contributions of the work and recommendations of the Global Review Panel;

9. *Recognizes* the critical importance of the Joint Programme in actively contributing to and engaging in the follow-up and review process of progress on the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development,[3] including at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to ensure that adequate attention is given to the HIV and AIDS response and its interlinkages with the other Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

10. *Notes* the continued need to close the HIV and AIDS resource gap, in line with the principles of shared responsibility and global solidarity, encourages countries to scale up domestic and international funding for the HIV and AIDS response, and emphasizes that action is needed to ensure political, programmatic and financial accountability and sustainability at all levels;

11. *Stresses* the importance of a fully funded unified budget, results and accountability framework for the effective functioning of the Joint Programme, and calls for renewed efforts to close the current funding gap, including by calling upon existing donors to maintain and step up their contributions and by inviting new donors to join from both the public and the private sectors;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Economic and Social Council, at its 2019 session, a report prepared by the Executive Director of the Joint Programme, in collaboration with its co-sponsors and other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, on progress made in implementing a coordinated response by the United Nations system to the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

42nd plenary meeting
7 July 2017

United Nations E/RES/2017/26

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 12 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2017

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.28)*]

2017/26. Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006, 2007/13 of 25 July 2007, 2008/10 of 23 July 2008, 2009/4 of 23 July 2009, 2010/28 of 23 July 2010, 2012/21 of 26 July 2012, 2013/15 of 23 July 2013, 2014/37 of 18 November 2014, 2015/18 of 21 July 2015 and 2016/28 of 27 July 2016 and its decisions 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, 2009/211 of 20 April 2009, 2009/267 of 15 December 2009, 2011/207 of 17 February 2011, 2011/211 of 26 April 2011, 2011/268 of 28 July 2011, 2013/209 of 15 February 2013, 2014/207 of 30 January 2014, 2014/210 of 23 April 2014 and 2014/221 of 13 June 2014,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 71/161 B of 13 July 2017 on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti[1] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* that political, institutional and socioeconomic stability are essential to the long-term development of Haiti, and welcomes the efforts of the Government of Haiti, the United Nations and the international community in this regard;

3. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the elections and the installation of a new Government in Haiti;

4. *Encourages* the Haitian authorities and all political actors and stakeholders to seize this opportunity to work together to contribute to the reconstruction and development process of Haiti as well as to build and to sustain peace;

5. *Calls upon* donors and other partners, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, to remain engaged in support of the long-term development of Haiti, in line with priorities set by the Government of Haiti, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] and calls

[1] E/2017/77.

[2] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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upon the Haitian authorities and international partners to relaunch coordination efforts based on strong national leadership and to take more coordinated and transparent steps to strengthen the implementation of the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti with a view to making full use of its potential for effective international support;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Haiti and development partners to redouble efforts to use existing mechanisms for the tracking of assistance, in order to increase transparency, coordination and alignment with Haitian development priorities;

7. *Welcomes* the elaboration of a United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2017–2021, and calls for, inter alia, closer coordination between the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the successor United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti and the United Nations country team and consultation with the Government of Haiti on the implementation of the "Delivering as one" approach by the United Nations system in Haiti;

8. *Recognizes* the positive contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives coordinated by the Government of Haiti on the basis of a horizontal and participatory approach in order to help the country to respond to development challenges in a more flexible and effective manner, with special emphasis on an integrated approach to capacity-building, and encourages all development partners, including the United Nations system and developing countries, to support such modalities;

9. *Calls upon* the Government of Haiti and development partners to support civil society organizations in Haiti, to benefit from their local knowledge and to strengthen their capacity to engage in the development process and become more effective agents of change in support of Haiti's development objectives;

10. *Invites* donors to align their efforts with the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti (2013–2022), the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti and the national health plan, as well as with other national activities to prevent waterborne diseases, and to provide the financial resources necessary for their implementation;

11. *Calls urgently for* adequate funding for humanitarian activities, including the cholera epidemic response, as presented in the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Haiti, and encourages partners to connect short-term activities with long-term development to build resilience and reduce the recurrence of crises;

12. *Encourages* all relevant actors within the United Nations system, including the peacebuilding architecture, as appropriate, to consider ways in which they can coordinate their efforts, at the request of the Government of Haiti, to better contribute to the strengthening of national institutions and the implementation of strategies and programmes to support reconstruction and sustainable development;

13. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2018 session, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

14. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Advisory Group, and requests him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources;

15. *Requests* the Advisory Group, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the successor United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and institutions, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community, the Union of South American Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank, other major stakeholders and civil society organizations, and in this regard welcomes the continuation of the dialogue between the members of the Advisory Group and the Organization of American States;

16. *Also requests* the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its 2018 session.

49th plenary meeting
25 July 2017

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 12 (*h*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2017

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.30)*]

2017/27. Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 281 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, in which it decided to adopt, on a regular basis, a biennial cycle of meetings which would correspond to the programme budget cycle, for better administrative control,

Recalling also its decision 1988/103 of 5 February 1988, in which it invited the Committee on Conferences to review the provisional biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the Economic and Social Council and submit, as appropriate, its recommendations thereon to the Council,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 66/233 of 24 December 2011, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to propose, at its sixty-seventh session, a comprehensive review of conference servicing highlighting any duplications and redundancies, with a view to identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-saving measures, without compromising the quality of its services,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/262 of 23 December 2016, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need to address the issue of duplications and redundancies in conference servicing and noted that the Council had decided, in its resolution 2013/13 of 22 July 2013, to consider at a later date the necessity of reviewing its provisional biennial calendar of conferences and meetings in the light of the ongoing intergovernmental consultations on the further strengthening of the Council,

Bearing in mind that the General Assembly will review the arrangements contained in Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council", at its seventy-second session,

Noting that the Council will adopt a decision on the working arrangements for its 2018 session at the first meeting of the session, on 27 July 2017,

1. *Decides* to approve the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2018 and 2019, to be updated, as necessary, in the light of the decision of the Economic and Social Council on the

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working arrangements for its 2018 session and other relevant decisions to be adopted by the Council or the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to propose to the Bureau of the Council at its 2018 session a streamlined list of bodies whose conferences and meetings should be included in future provisional calendars of conferences to be considered by the Council starting at its 2019 session;

3. *Decides*, on an exceptional basis, to include in the agenda of its 2018 session, under the item entitled "Coordination, programme and other questions", the sub-item entitled "Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields".

49th plenary meeting
25 July 2017

Economic and Social Council

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24 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 11 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2017

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.32)*]

2017/28. Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Declaration,

Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[6] and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),[7]

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[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[4] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[6] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

[7] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

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Recalling further its resolution 2016/15 of 26 July 2016 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/238 of 21 December 2016,

Noting the theme of its high-level segment of 2017, "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges" and the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017, "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;[6]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in its eight priority areas, namely, (*a*) productive capacity, (*b*) agriculture, food security and rural development, (*c*) trade, (*d*) commodities, (*e*) human and social development, (*f*) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (*g*) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (*h*) good governance at all levels;

3. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

4. *Acknowledges* the potential of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries to foster productive capacity, structural transformation, poverty eradication and sustainable development in least developed countries, and in this regard takes note of General Assembly resolution 70/216 of 22 December 2015, in which the Assembly outlined the steps necessary to launch and operationalize the Technology Bank, funded by voluntary contributions, and to ensure continued support for the Technology Bank from all relevant stakeholders, also takes note of Assembly resolution 71/251 of 23 December 2016, and in this context encourages Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial contributions and operational support to the Technology Bank to ensure its early operationalization and effective operation;

5. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[4] in the least developed countries;

6. *Recognizes* that significant additional domestic public resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the

[6] A/72/83-E/2017/60.

Sustainable Development Goals, and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resource mobilization underscored by the principle of national ownership, and also recognizes that, while the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources and attract private investment, further progress is needed, and underlines the importance of strengthening domestic enabling environments, including the rule of law and combating corruption at all levels and in all its forms;

7. *Expresses its concern* that, while the least developed countries are in need of global support, bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to least developed countries declined by 3.9 per cent in 2016 compared with 2015, according to preliminary numbers, and underlines the urgent need to reverse the decline, while expressing its appreciation to those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitments to 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for ODA to developing targets and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, calls upon ODA providers to fulfil their respective ODA commitments to the least developed countries, and encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.2 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, while reiterating that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private;

8. *Recognizes* that private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation, and that private international capital flows, in particular foreign direct investment, along with a stable international financial system, are vital complements to national development efforts, and in this regard expresses its concern that foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries retreated by 13 per cent in 2016 compared with 2015, underlines the need for substantially increased foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries, recognizes in this regard that private capital flows, in particular foreign direct investment, play a complementary and catalytic role in building and strengthening productive capacity in the least developed countries, and calls upon the least developed countries to continue to strengthen the underlying investment climate and upon development partners to continue to provide enhanced financial and technical support to those countries so as to develop their productive capacities;

9. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly to the Economic and Social Council, at its next annual forum on financing for development follow-up, to discuss adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on the matter, including General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the mandate of the annual forum on financing for development follow-up set out therein, invites the President of the Council to include the outcome of this discussion in his summary of the forum on financing for development follow-up, and recalls that the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum will inform the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

10. *Reaffirms* the essential role of gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights, and of full and productive employment and decent work in achieving sustainable development, reaffirms that women and girls must enjoy equal access to high-quality education, health, including

sexual and reproductive health, access to finance and economic opportunities and resources and political participation, as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment and decent work, leadership and decision-making at all levels, also reaffirms the commitment to work for a significant increase in the investments to close the gender gap and strengthen support for institutions, including criminal and civil justice systems, in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels, and further reaffirms continuing support for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including through the engagement of men and boys;

11. *Recalls* General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and underscores that the efforts of the least developed countries towards sustainable graduation are underpinned by their ownership and leadership, as the primary responsibility for development lies with the countries themselves, but that they need to be supported by concrete and substantial international partnership measures in a spirit of mutual accountability for development results;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of the reviews by the Committee for Development Policy of the graduation criteria for the least developed countries, recommends that the reviews be comprehensive, taking into account all aspects of the evolving international development context, including relevant agendas, and in this regard takes note of the decision of the Committee to implement a multi-year work programme for a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria[9] and looks forward to its outcome;

13. *Reiterates* that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into development policies, and in this regard takes note of the survey conducted by the Committee for Development Policy to collect information on the recognition and application of the least developed country category by entities of the United Nations development system and the recommendations of the Committee;[10]

14. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, and stresses the need for providing appropriate space and platforms for structured dialogue between the least developed countries and their development partners;

15. *Welcomes* the fact that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[6] the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),[7] the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030[11] and the call

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 13* (E/2017/33), chap. I, sect. B, para. 12.

[10] Ibid., chap. I, sect. A, para. 5.

[11] See General Assembly resolution 71/285.

for action of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,[12] underscore that the most vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries, deserve special attention and reflect the concerns and aspirations of the least developed countries, recalls the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

16. *Expresses its serious concern* at the fact that the share of expenditure for operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining, urges the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries, while reaffirming that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced support to overcome structural challenges that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and requests the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2018 session, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020" of the item entitled "Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

49th plenary meeting
25 July 2017

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[12] See General Assembly resolution 71/312, annex.

United Nations E/RES/2017/29

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 18 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2017

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.31)*]

2017/29. Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2]

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, by which the Assembly endorsed the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted during the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016,

Recalling its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, 2013/20 of 24 July 2013 and 2016/21 of 27 July 2016,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its nineteenth session;[3]

2. *Notes* the work done by the Committee on (*a*) lessons learned in developing productive capacities from countries graduating and graduated from the least developed country category in accordance with the theme of the high-level segment of the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council, (*b*) monitoring the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the list of least developed countries, (*c*) a review of the criteria used in the identification of the least developed countries, in preparation for the triennial review of the category in 2018, and the outline of a multi-year programme for a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria, (*d*) a review of the recognition and use of the least developed country category by the entities of the United Nations development system, (*e*) an update of the least developed country category graduation platform for improving the understanding of and preparation for graduation from the least developed country category, and (*f*) the review of total official support for sustainable development;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its twentieth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2018 session of the Council;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

5. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly, as stated in its resolution 67/221, for graduating countries to prepare their national transition strategy with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with their bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and to report annually to the Committee on the preparation of that strategy;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to pursue its methodological work to measure progress in and identify obstacles to the development of productive capacities in developing countries, in accordance with paragraph 76 (*k*) of the Nairobi Maafikiano,[4] and to share the outcome of its work as an input to the impact assessments of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the monitoring reports of the Committee on countries graduating or graduated from the least developed country category;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework, the World Trade Organization, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the regional commissions, among others, to provide inputs to the impact assessments prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to further contribute to the smooth transition of countries graduating from the least developed country category, highlighting those entities' operational activities relating to building productive capacity in the least developed countries and the possible impact of graduation on such activities;

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[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 13* (E/2017/33).

[4] TD/519/Add.2 and Corr.1.

8. *Reiterates* that treating the least developed countries as a group on the basis of their low per capita income, human asset development and economic vulnerability remains the fundamental premise for special measures in their favour and that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020[2] into development policies, and in this regard encourages the entities of the United Nations development system to consistently apply the least developed country category in the provision of international support measures, including through the adoption of common guidelines in this regard;

9. *Also reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly to the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and other multilateral organizations and international financial institutions to contribute to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their work programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

10. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize resource allocations to the least developed countries, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016;

11. *Also requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

12. *Invites* the Committee to brief the Council every four years, in the year preceding the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, on how the United Nations development system is applying the least developed country category;

13. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the contributions made by the Committee to the various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate.

49th plenary meeting
25 July 2017

United Nations E/RES/2017/30

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 16

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2017

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.34)*]

2017/30. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 71/97 of 6 December 2016 and 71/247 of 21 December 2016,

Recalling also its resolution 2016/14 of 25 July 2016,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 497(1981) of 17 December 1981 and 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,[1]

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[3] and the

[1] A/72/90-E/2017/71.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] and affirming that these human rights instruments are applicable and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Noting with concern that it has been 70 years since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and 50 years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

Taking note, in this regard, of Palestine's accession to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions as well as other international treaties,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004, 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008 and 2334 (2016), the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[5] and the Quartet road map,[6] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation, endangerment and depletion of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly as a result of settlement activities, which are illegal under international law and which, deplorably, continued during the reporting period,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve environmentally sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Expressing alarm, in this regard, about the extremely high levels of unemployment in the Gaza Strip in particular, which remains at over 40 per cent, with youth unemployment reaching 60 per cent, exacerbated by the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip on economic and social infrastructure and living conditions,

Commending, despite the many constraints, including the obstacles imposed by the ongoing Israeli occupation, the efforts of the Palestinian Government to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water,

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[5] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[6] S/2003/529, annex.

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which was launched on 15 August 2013 and which aims, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Gravely concerned about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and stressing that such illegal measures are main sources of other Israeli violations and discriminatory policies,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,[7]

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, historic and religious sites and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the rights to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[8] and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Deploring all loss of innocent civilian life and injury to scores of civilians, and calling upon all parties to fully respect international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its

[7] A/HRC/22/63.

[8] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

construction of settlements and the wall and confiscation of land, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinian civilians, including the Bedouin community, due to the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about ongoing Israeli military operations and policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestine refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Expressing grave concern, in particular, over the continuing crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, stressing that the situation is unsustainable, as reflected in numerous reports, including the report of 26 August 2016 of the United Nations country team, entitled "Gaza: two years after", and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing of and injury to thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, as well as the widespread destruction of or damage to thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Gravely concerned about the consequent prolonged and extensive negative impact of the military operations of July and August 2014, as well as the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009 and of November 2012, on economic conditions, the provision of social services and the social, humanitarian and physical living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, including the Palestine refugee population,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process, by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian crisis

continues to deepen, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration and fulfilment of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths of and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, including of children, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for ill prisoners, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and all reports of torture,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions and infrastructure, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, despite the obstacles presented by the ongoing Israeli occupation, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Policy Agenda: National Priorities, Policies and Policy Interventions (2017–2022),

Expressing concern about the risks posed to the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, owing to the negative impact of ongoing instability and the financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government and the continued absence of a credible political horizon,

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their

national development and State-building plan, as well as the vital assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points, and Palestinian national reconciliation, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet,

Aware that development and fostering healthy economic, social and environmental conditions are difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

1. *Calls for* the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multilayered closure system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is dire in the Gaza Strip, and also calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;[5]

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and government institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Reiterates* the call for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

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[5] See A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;[2]

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to prevent Israeli settlers from perpetrating such illegal activities;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct the implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip, notably the provision of the electric power needed for the work of the northern Gaza emergency sewage treatment plant, and stresses in this regard the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the desalination facility project for the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls for* the assistance necessary for the safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip, which endanger Palestinian lives and negatively impact the environment as well as reconstruction and development efforts, and welcomes the efforts exerted by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations to date;

12. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including in particular in and around occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

13. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalls in this regard Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994 and stresses the need for its implementation;

14. *Also calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons, and calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees;

15. *Reaffirms* that Israel's ongoing construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and

seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice[8] and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

16. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaytirah entrance;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

18. *Expresses appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, which has helped to ameliorate their critical economic and social conditions, and urges the continued provision of assistance commensurate with increased socioeconomic and humanitarian needs and in cooperation with official Palestinian institutions and consistent with the Palestinian National Development Plan;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of and need for increased and renewed international efforts on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1544 (2004), 1850 (2008) and 2334 (2016), and the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[5] and the Quartet road map,[6] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

21. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its 2018 session.

50th plenary meeting
25 July 2017

United Nations E/RES/2017/31

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 14

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2017

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.33)*]

2017/31. Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[2]

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[3]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/20 of 27 July 2016,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),

Welcoming the current participation, in their capacity as observers, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant

[1] A/72/69.
[2] E/2017/59.
[3] See E/2017/SR.50.

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resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, they face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all the major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in that regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/122 of 6 December 2016, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the

Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples, on a case-by-case basis;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories on a case-by-case basis;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible on a case-by-case basis;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(*a*) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(*b*) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(*c*) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(*d*) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active

cooperation of the regional organizations concerned and on a case-by-case basis, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit those proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the preparation by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of an informational leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and its updated online version, and requests that they be disseminated as widely as possible;

14. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining a close liaison between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

15. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

16. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to continue their cooperation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in the framework of the responsibilities established in Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular subparagraph *d*, and to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that they may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

17. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis;

18. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the 2017 session of the Economic and Social Council;

19. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on 16 May 1998 of its resolution 574 (XXVII),[4] in which the Commission called for the mechanisms necessary for its associate members, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate, subject to the rules of

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), chap. III, sect. G.

procedure of the General Assembly, in the special sessions of the Assembly convened to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories had originally participated in their capacity as observers, and in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

20. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chair of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its 2018 session;

22. *Decides* to keep the above questions under continuous review.

50th plenary meeting
25 July 2017

United Nations E/RES/2017/32

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2017

2017 session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2017

[*on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/2017/15/Add.1)*]

2017/32. Admission of Turkey to membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of resolution 716 (PLEN.32) adopted by the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-second session, held in New York on 30 January 2017, which is annexed to the present resolution,

Approves the admission of Turkey to membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

50th plenary meeting
25 July 2017

Annex

Resolution 716 (PLEN.32)

Admission of Turkey as a State member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was established by the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February 1948, in which the Council stated that membership of the Commission shall be open to States Members of the United Nations in North, Central and South America and in the Caribbean area and to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Bearing in mind also that the Commission was established on the basis of the participation of all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and those that have had special relations of a historical, cultural, geographical or economic nature with the region,

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Recalling that, in that spirit, the Commission subsequently admitted the following countries: Spain in 1979, Portugal in 1984, Italy in 1990, Germany in 2005, Japan in 2006, the Republic of Korea in 2007 and Norway in 2015,

Considering that the Government of Turkey has communicated to the Commission, through the Executive Secretary, its desire to be admitted as a member of the Commission,[1]

1. *Welcomes* the request of the Government of Turkey that the country be admitted as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. *Recommends* to the Economic and Social Council that it approve the admission of Turkey as a member of the Commission and authorize to this effect the amendment of paragraph 3 (*a*) of the terms of reference of the Commission to include the name of Turkey.

[1] LC/L.4259(PLEN.32/4)/Rev.1.